THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (a) Yes. Some stones were quarried from S. No. 194/1, natham poramboke of the village. About 1,373 lb. were seized by the village headman from the members of the Christians' Munnethra Sangam of Perantholavu village, Palladam, under the mistaken impression that they were valuable stones.

" (b) When the matter was further investigated by the Tahsildar, Tiruppur, it was found that the stones were not valuable.

" (c) No further survey for starting a pilot scheme to exploit the stones was conducted as the stones quarried were not valuable."

SRI S. R. ARUMUGAM :—" ஸார், அந்த பெருந்துருவு கிராமத்திலும் அதைச் சுற்றியிருக்கும் கிராமங்களிலும் சாதாரணமாக வியாபாரிகள் சென்று அங்கே இருக்கக்கூடிய பலரகக் கற்களை வாங்கி வருகிறார்கள். சர்க்கார் சொல்லக்கூடிய முறையில் அந்தக் கற்கள் மதிப்பு இல்லை என்று சொன்னால் அந்த வியாபாரிகள் ஏன் அந்தக் கற்களை இவ்வளவு வாங்கிச் செல்லுகிறார்கள் என்பதை சர்க்கார் பரிசீலனை செய்வார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" The position as it is, is that the stones are said to be not valuable. But, if the hon. Member still persists in saying that there may be valuable stones, I would request him to give me a memorandum or petition. I will look into it."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" May I know whether the Government have been able to find out whether the stones found in those places could actually be classified as granite stones, valueless stones or some precious stones? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" It was thought that they were valuable stones in the sense that to some extent they appeared like precious stones, but as a matter of fact, it was found that probably they were a sort of glittering stones."

(Questions Nos. 2313 and 2314 taken up together.)

Harijan entry into private temples

* 2313 *Q.*—SRI O. KORAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(a) how many temples in the State have been declared as public temples and how many as private temples after the Madras Temple Entry Authorization Act was passed in the State; and

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to take any steps, and if so, what steps to get entry into private temples for worship for Harijans?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (a) The Government have no information.

" (b) The Government do not contemplate any action in the matter."